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W. B. Smith
PROSPECTOR'S MANUAL

Being a full and complete history and description of the
best discovered gold mines in

GRANITE CREEK

The Canyon of the Yellowstone River, and other
gold-bearing localities in

The Similkameen Country.

With full Instructions as how to get there and
what to do on arriving there.

Its many advantages as an Agricultural, Stock
Raising and Manufacturing Country.

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EMIGRANTS, TOURISTS, SPORTSMEN AND
GOLD SEEKERS.

WITH MAPS.

BY F. C. FROST.

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PROSPECTORS' MANUAL

Being a full and complete History and Description of the
newly discovered Gold Mines on

GRANITE CREEK,

The Canyon of the Tulameen River, and other
new mineral discoveries in

The Similkameen Country,

With full Instructions as how to get there and
what to do on arriving there.

—: ALSO:—

Its many advantages as an Agricultural, Stock
Raising and Lumbering Country.

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF
EMIGRANTS, TOURISTS, SPORTSMEN AND
GOLD SEEKERS.

WITH MAPS.

BY P. L. TROUT.

1880.

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ERRATA.

Page 4, for "sordial" read "sordid."

Page 6, for "prosecuting," read "prospecting."

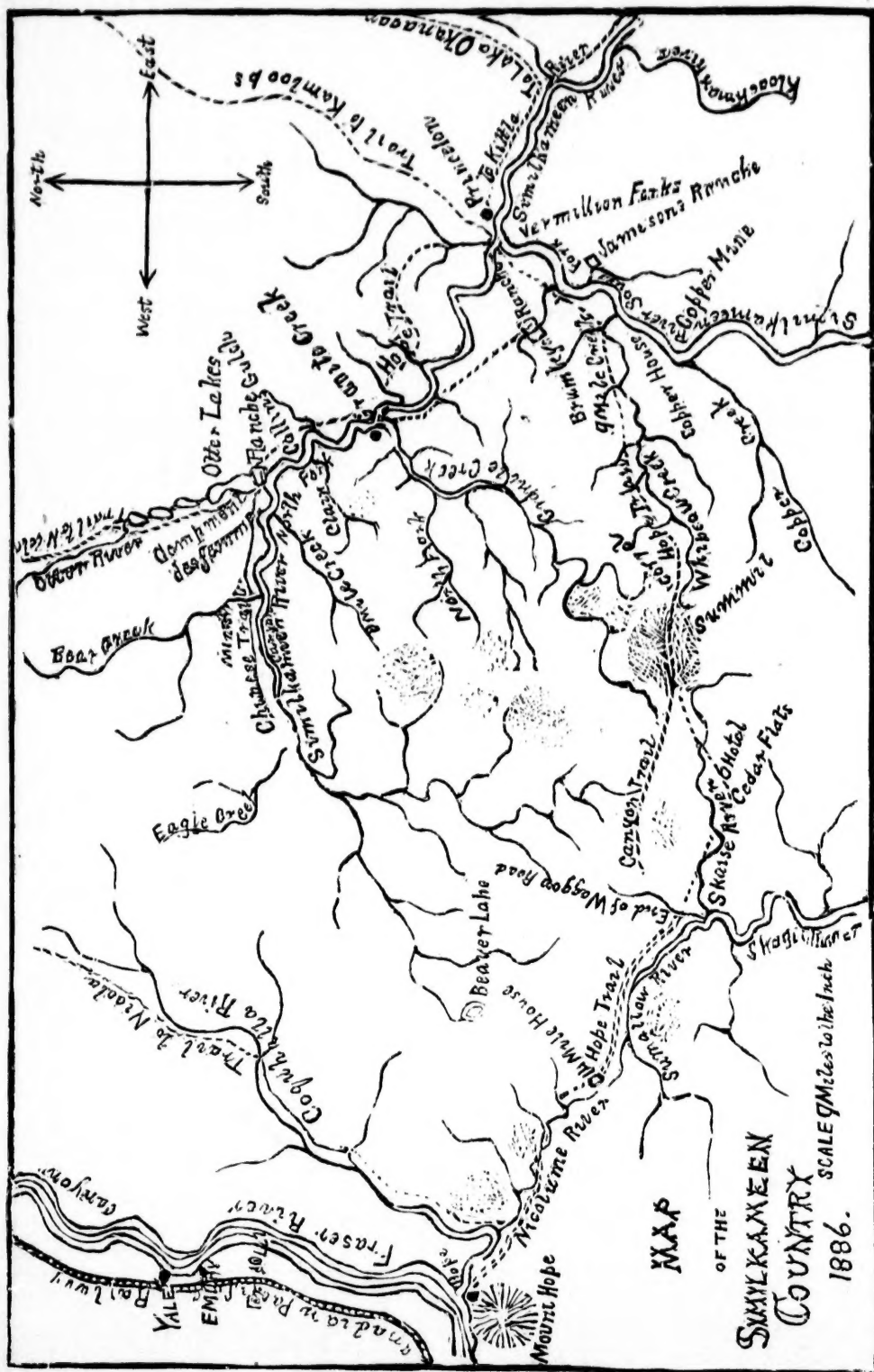
The newly discovered Slate creek is, on the map, called "Eight Mile creek."

NOTE.—The richness of the bench claims, noticed on page 58, can be accounted for by the fact that they are in the old bed of the river, described on page 63.

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GRANITE CREEK.

ITS HISTORY.

Granite Creek was discovered about the middle of July last, 1885, by John Chance, and like many other great discoveries that have added much to the material wealth of the world, it was a purely *chance* discovery. The concealed wealth, that for untold ages lay in the bottom of this now famous creek, was brought to the notice of the world by a cowboy—one of the genuine stamp, much like those we read about—a regular whoop 'er up, in-with-the-boys, dare devil cowboy from Arizona, or some other southern locality perhaps not quite so far away, but at all events a fair specimen of this now noted type of humanity.

It seems that about the middle of July last, for some reason best known to himself, Mr. Chance undertook the task of riding up the canyon of Granite creek for a mile or more, a task about as difficult as some other ventures that have made cowboys famous, such as riding up the stairs in a hotel, riding into church, etc. However, while on this expedition he noticed small pieces of gold in the cracks of the rocks. Realizing that he had discovered a bonanza, he informed three of his friends, who were mining down the Similkameen, who came up and located the discovery claim about one-half mile above where the town now stands. Their choice proved to be very fortunate, work was commenced at once, and the first sluice boxes on the creek were worked by Wm. Jenkins & Co., who, with Mr. Chance, con-

SCALE 9 Miles to the Inch
1886.

stituted the discovery party. The result realized the most sanguine expectations, as from fifteen to twenty ounces of gold was the result of the first day's operation; this was afterwards increased to \$700 from one sluice box alone, or over one hundred dollars to the man employed.

Mr. Chance, immediately after the location, sold his share of the discovery claim to the Chinese, who have worked it ever since. About three-fourths of a mile above the discovery claim Joseph Florence located a claim which proved very rich, and immediately above him on the creek was opened out the Brumley and Biggs claim. This proved one of the richest, if not the richest, claim on the creek; a single pan of dirt when washed out having been known to contain by actual weighing thirty-three dollars, and as much as three hundred dollars have been washed out in a single day with a rocker. It is hardly likely that this record has been surpassed anywhere on the creek. Above this claim, the rocky walls that thus far rise on either side of the creek almost perpendicular for several hundred feet, now overhang it, thus constituting what is called the first canyon, and this was considered by most of the miners, until the middle of August, to be as far up the creek as any of the paying claims would extend. About this time French Loui's claim was opened up, and he and his two half-breed boys rocked out an average of about one hundred dollars per day. This proved that the limit of the gold-producing region had not yet been reached, and shortly afterwards the Hope claim, about half a mile still further up, turned out gold in paying quantities; then Beers and Murphy, between those two last mentioned claims, proved also to be rich. Before the end of August nearly all the claims below the first canyon were worked and found to pay well, and above this canyon, as far as the Hope claim, by the middle of September, paying claims were the rule, and non-paying ones the exception; and before the end of September every claim on the creek from the Hope claim down was thoroughly prospected.

Even in the canyons where it was not believed possible to be any gold, on account of their not being a sufficient amount of gravel to make any diggings, it was found that even there, there was gold behind and under every large boulder, and every small crack and crevice proved rich, so much so indeed, that on several of the claims on the creek a rocker was useless, the pieces of gold being so large that they would not readily pass through the seive, and a considerable part of one or two claims have on this account been washed out with a pan. I have known of as much as several ounces of gold to be taken out of a crack not more than half an inch in width. The discoverer of the creek, John Chance, claims to have taken one hundred and thirty dollars in a single day out of the rocks with his jack-knife. This may seem an exaggeration, yet it is nevertheless a fact well known, that even a month after the creek was discovered people strolling up and down it have made in this same way twenty, thirty and forty dollars, and even as high as fifty dollars in a single day. The South Fork Co. have flumed several hundred feet of the first canyon I have already described; this, for two months after the creek was discovered, was not considered worth the trouble of staking out, there being nothing in the creek except some gravel and boulders in the deep places. The result so far, according to Mr. Kootlie, the principal share-holder in the company, is from twenty-five to thirty dollars per day to the man. The month of September had nearly passed away and no claim up the creek further than the Hope claim, was found to be productive, all efforts to find anything paying above this claim seemed useless, and the conviction was gradually fixing itself in the minds of nearly every one that a rocky gulch coming in from the south-east side of the creek, a short distance above the Hope claim, was the boundary of the gold-producing region. The first event that occurred to disturb the soundness of this theory was the discovery of gold in paying quantities about three miles up from the Hope claim by

Pogue & Co., on what is called the South Fork, but it should be noticed here, and insisted on, that what is called the South fork of Granite creek is not the South fork but Granite creek itself, the North fork not containing the one-hundredth part of the amount of water that there is in the so-called South fork. On Granite creek then, and not the South fork, about three miles above the Hope claim, Pogue & Co. found gold in paying quantities. This was about the 1st of October. A few days later what is now believed to have been the richest spot on the whole creek, was struck by A. McIntyre, about a mile above the Hope claim. This discovery caused much excitement, and stimulated the claim owners immediately below him to vigorous efforts to discover the concealed wealth which they felt sure existed somewhere in their property. They did not search in vain, as it is a fact that all the claims in that part of the creek, with only a few exceptions, are now paying. Between this claim and the forks (as they are improperly called) no pay had been found in the bed of the creek before the first of November, although several low bench claims had been found rich. The reason for the ill-success in this part of the creek has very lately been satisfactorily explained. The creek here is much wider than further down, and the bed-rock deeper, and of course the pay-streak, if any existed, harder to find. Of course, the great problem was, did any pay-streak exist? This was satisfactorily settled on the 5th or 6th of November by finding it on the claim of Suchel & Cockhill, and immediately before I left I heard that it was again struck on Wm. Jenkins & Co.'s claim, immediately below the forks. That the history of this part of the creek will only be a repetition of what I have now recorded regarding other parts of the creek, I have not the slightest doubt, and it is more than likely that when Granite creek is completely worked out it will be on record that this part of the creek, which I have just mentioned, will be found to have yielded quite as much of the "sordial dust," and contributed a share to the substantial wealth of the country

quite equal to any other part of the same length, on any other portion of the creek. The reasons for which are too apparent to deserve a consideration. How much further up the creek this pay streak runs is uncertain. Gold has been found in paying quantities on at least one claim. There are reports of several others striking it rich, but I have not seen them, and as nothing but well attested facts should go into a work of this kind, I refrain from going into particulars. It is an old saying "gold is where you find it," or as I have often heard it remarked "you are sure of it when it is in your pocket, and until then everything in regard to it is uncertain." I will, however, venture an opinion as that ought to be worth something to those who have never seen the creek, which is that for at least two miles above the forks gold will be found in sufficient quantity to pay good wages to those who try to find it. About the 2nd or 3rd of November a report reached our town that a very rich find had been struck on the South fork, or Granite Creek itself, about ten miles from its mouth. This caused what is called in mining communities, a *stampede*, or a wild rush to the new diggings which is done with about as much energy and spirit as if the life of every person depended on his being there on a given time, and that time had nearly expired when he started. On this occasion they were leaving at all hours of the night on what I believe to be the darkest and most disagreeable night I saw in my whole experience in the country. There was neither moon nor stars. It was neither raining or snowing exactly, but doing its best at both. All the bushes, which in this country are evergreen, were loaded with slush. Indeed it seemed that all the efforts of nature were combined to make the night disagreeable to an incomparable degree. Yet, notwithstanding all these drawbacks, about the middle of the night when everybody supposed everybody else was asleep, about two-thirds of the entire population quietly moved away, and followed a mountain trail over mountains and rocks and along the edge of precipices where a single

misstep would have caused a fall of over a thousand feet, yet forgetful of all those dangers, forgetful of provisions or blankets, or anything to shelter from the inclemency of the weather, in fact forgetful of everything except how to get there, they rushed to the new diggings and staked off several miles of the creek. As a heavy fall of snow occurred at that time on the highlands, it was resolved to petition the commissioner to lay the claims over until the spring, which he accordingly did, and of course nothing will be certainly known in regard to their richness until the spring opens up when a thorough test will probably be made. What will be the outcome from these new diggings I will not venture an opinion. It is very unfortunate indeed that this find was not made a month earlier, as it would then be thoroughly tested before the winter set in. If there is nothing in it the public generally should know it. If it is as rich as reported then Granite creek is yet young, its best days are still to come, and by far the greater part of its wealth remains still untouched. As for myself I did not go with the stampede. I had a trial of it before, and that was sufficient. I saw but very little poetry, romance or sentiment in it and, therefore, stayed at home. I had, however, been on the same ground about two months before on one of my prosecuting tours, but could see nothing that indicated to me the immense amount of hidden wealth that is said to lie there waiting to be revealed in the sluice-boxes whenever they are erected. But still the fact that I saw no indication of it is no proof that it is not there. If it is there it is not the first time that I have walked unsuspectingly over wealth that would have made me immensely rich. However, if it should prove a total failure my faith in Granite creek would not, by any means, be shaken, as I saw on that very ground what seemed to me indications that would warrant any miner in believing that further up, if not there, the creek was rich. Indeed, I might say that after an experience of over three months prospecting and mining in this country, I have come to the conclusion that the head-waters of the Similkameen is going to be a better gold field than was Cariboo in its palmyest days.

OTHER PAYING LOCATIONS.

Granite creek is not by any means the only paying one in the Similkameen country. The north fork of the Similkameen drains several thousand square miles of country and when it is remembered that the first sluice boxes on Granite Creek were put up on the 23rd of August, a good idea can be formed of how much time there has been for prospecting. The miners on Granite creek knowing that the season was pretty well past when they commenced, and not knowing at what moment their works might be swept away by a flood found their time well occupied in testing what Granite creek would produce.

Along in the month of June the attention of about a dozen miners, who had been working down the Similkameen and on the south fork, was directed to the north fork of this river by rumors that the Chinese were finding gold, and the first, as near as I can learn, to come up the river in actual search of this precious metal was Joseph Florence, M. Saffron, one or two of the Brumleys, John Chance, Thos. Currie and Mr. Cutter. The prospecting was continued along the river until Granite creek was struck in July. As this was by far the richest strike yet made in the country no further effort was made at prospecting. In the latter part of September James E. Rice went past the mouth of Granite creek with a large prospecting outfit, and as no one knew where he was going it began to be whispered around that a new creek had been discovered. This news caused a genuine stampede to Bear Creek, about fourteen miles distant, and several miles of the creek was staked off by the stampeders, but the result did not equal their expectations and one after another

returned, sadder but wiser men. Mr. Rice has been generally blamed for this stampede; this, however, is doing him an injustice, as his object evidently was to go there and prospect the creek without any person outside knowing anything about it. This secrecy, however, was misinterpreted. People generally supposed that he had found something good and wished to reap all the benefit for himself, hence the rush. After prospecting for a short time, and not finding gold in paying quantities, they concluded to quit and await the results of the prospecting on the discovery claim. Mr. Rice and the discovery party kept at work until they reached the bed rock, which they found to be rich, but as their means were not sufficient to work it in a proper shape work was suspended until the spring opened, when work on a larger scale will probably be commenced. In the meantime parties on Granite creek who had taken up claims on Bear creek, finding that the discovery claim was likely to prove a success, began to move back and give the creek a further trial. When last heard from the news was that several claims on the creek were worked with good results, and all those who had recorded claims on the creek seemed anxious to hold them, and give them a good trial in the spring. If this creek proves a success, which seems now quite probable, then the richness of the immense gold fields of the Similkameen is assured, as there is certainly not a more unfavorably located creek in the whole district. My reasons for this will be explained in the chapter on the geological formations on Granite creek. Shortly after the Bear Creek excitement, gold was struck in paying quantities in Collin's Gulch about four miles above Granite creek. After this announcement a mile or two of the creek was run off, but as the creek was very small, all the water in it being hardly sufficient to fill a sluice box, and it being choked up with rock slides, there were only a few claims in it that could be prospected to advantage; these claims were worked with sluice boxes, with what result I have never learned, but it

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evidently has been satisfactory, as they have continued to work it from the time it was discovered in September, until along in November when I left the country. On the opposite side of the North fork of the Similkameen is a small creek that is worked by some white men. The result, at least to me, is unknown. On eight mile Creek still further up some claims are worked by the Chinese. The only information that can be got from them is "two bittie some days, and four bittie, and some days six bittie." As this is with them a stereotyped answer, and would be just the same whether it was four bits or four hundred dollars they were making per day, this is just the same as no information at all, and the fact that they are working there, is the only proof that they are making anything. There is a falls on this creek, which is so extremely difficult to get over that it, as far as I have learned, has ended all prospecting tours on the creek. Above this creek on the main river, for five or six miles at least, is, I feel well assured, the best gold diggings in the country, Granite creek not excepted. The river here flows through a canyon that much resembles the canyon of Granite creek. This rich spot was discovered by Chinamen early in the Spring, but with the wonderful talent that they have for keeping their business to themselves, it was strongly suspected, but never certainly known, until this fall, what they were doing. There is now good reason to believe that this canyon is immensely richer than Granite creek, and that this summer a vastly greater amount of gold has been taken out of it; one Chinaman alone carrying away twelve thousand dollars. What the total result has been can only be guessed. From the looks of their sluice boxes, that I saw on one of my prospecting tours, I inferred that five or six hundred dollars a day was not an unusual wash-up. As there were two or three hundred mining along this river, it is not beyond the bounds of probability to say that the total amount would not be less than two hundred thousand dollars. The nuggets are much larger and plumper looking than those on

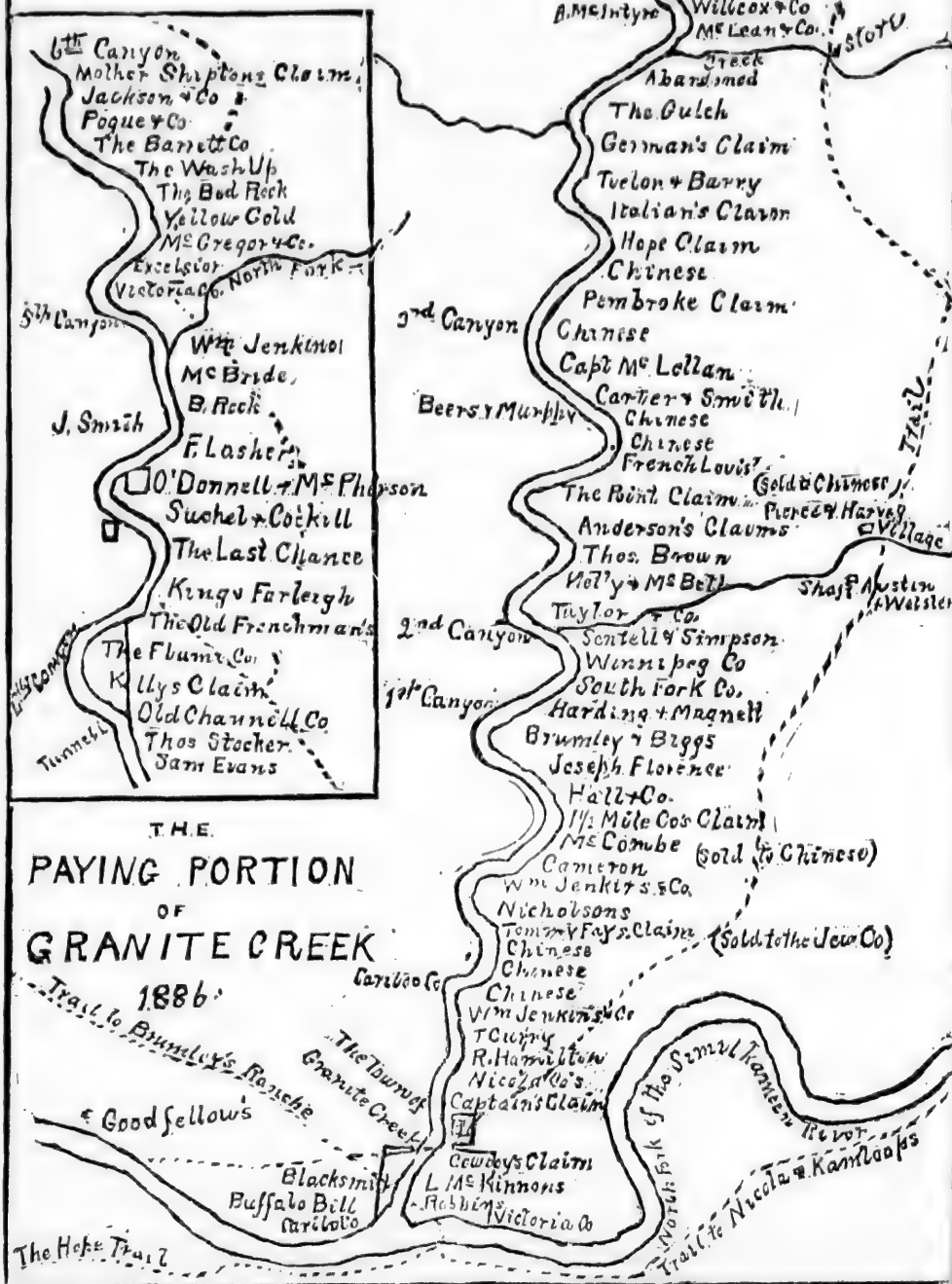
Granite creek. One of them, Mr. Alliston says, weighed \$147. The eighty-four dollar nugget which Mr. Allister showed around Victoria also came from there. The worst of this is, this immense yield of the precious metal adds little or nothing to the aggregate wealth of the country; as near as I can learn, this amount which should add just that much to the intrinsic wealth of the country might, as far as benefitting the country is concerned, have been thrown into the sea. What makes this peculiarly aggravating is that these Chinamen, nearly if not quite all, worked without a license, without which a man is violating the law to work at all, he cannot be sworn in court, cannot collect any wages, in fact has no rights at all that any one is under any obligation to respect. This part of the law is always rigidly enforced and taken advantage of with white men in mining camps everywhere, but for some reason or other the Chinamen were allowed to take out this enormous amount of wealth without recording claims, taking out licences, or adding anything to the revenue. They have been allowed to utterly disregard the miners' laws in every particular. I must, however, say, in justice to Mr. Alliston, that on several occasions he has urged parties to go up there and stake off their claims and work them, and he would see that they were protected in their rights. It is to be hoped that a well organized effort will be made in the Spring to see this set right. Above this canyon the river forks into several branches, one or two of which is about the size of Granite creek; as I had seriously injured my wrist by a fall from a rock I could do nothing in the way of prospecting when I was there, but as far as appearances went everything seemed to me to indicate a rich bed rock. I went several miles above the last Chinese diggings, but could not see the slightest indication that ever a human being had been there before me. Since then John Chance, with a party of two or three reliable men, have gone up there to prospect and had not returned at the time I left Granite creek. I shall be much disappointed if they do not

bring back good news, but shall not loose my faith in the richness of that part until I prospect it myself. The Similkameen below this canyon is evidently rich, but the immense deposits of gravel have made the work of finding the bed-rock extremely difficult, and no attempts have so far been made. Nevertheless behind almost every point on the river there is a camp of Chinamen, from which every person can draw his own inference, as that is all that is known about the river. Around the mouth of Granite creek several white men have been sluicing out the bars. Mr. Goodfellow, who is one of them, told me that two of them cleaned up forty dollars as a result of the first six days work, but they expected to double that when everything got in working order. This I think is about what can be done in almost any part of the river. Had they used quicksilver the return would undoubtedly have been much greater. This country differs very materially from almost any other gold country that I ever heard tell of. It is both a gold producing country, and also a good grazing country, and a grazing country is supposed to be covered with grass, and grass and the soil in which it grows will effectually cover up all surface indications of mineral wealth. In Nevada and Utah a good mineral ledge can be seen for miles, and will attract the notice of any miner who goes anywhere in the neighborhood of it. Not so is it in the Similkameen country. Mountains and valleys alike are covered with trees and grass, and the vegetable soil that is necessary to their existence, and it is only here and there in the canyons and places washed bare by the streams and from the small outcropping on the mountains, that any idea can be gained of what mineral wealth there is in the country. When we know therefore that not more than probably the millionth part of the surface of the rocks is exposed to view, should we not feel hopeful in regard to the future of this as a mineral country. With these almost overwhelming disadvantages an immense amount of mineral wealth has already been discovered.

There is a seam of the very best bituminous coal running through the country. How many more there are similar to it will probably never be known. There may be a hundred more, as the country has not been explored and of course no one can tell. There is a copper mine on the south Similkameen which it is quite possible will far surpass the Calumet and Hecla, of Michigan, but of course it will remain unworked until railway facilities are provided. Mr. R. Stephenson has discovered a quartz ledge somewhere near the head of Granite creek that is altogether too rich to be believed by all the readers of this book. I will not say what it assayed as I did not see the report, but would refer all who may be interested to the above named gentleman. His address, I believe, is Chilliwack, B. C. John Chance also claims to have discovered a ledge of unparalleled richness. There are also quartz ledges discovered in different parts of the country, but they are too numerous to be mentioned in detail. In conclusion I think it proper to say that I have no interest in any quartz ledge or mining property of any description anywhere in British Columbia. I make this statement as it is possible that it may be thought that the facts recorded might be colored on account of self-interest.

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T.H.E.
PAYING PORTION
OF
GRANITE CREEK
1886



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF GRANITE CREEK.

Granite creek rises in the mountains near the Hope trail; at first it runs eastwardly, then southerly, and after the small stream called the North fork joins it its general course is due southeast. Its entire length is from twenty-five to thirty miles. Its volume of water is about twice that of Yale creek. Those who appear to know most about it say that it begins to rise about the first of May and is highest about the first of June when it begins to subside and the water continues to grow less until the fall rains commence. In the spring, during the months of March and April, the water is said to be the lowest that it is during the whole year. How all this information has been obtained I never could learn, but think it extremely reasonable that it is in the main correct. As the creek was only discovered in July last nothing is known in regard to it previous to that month, but judging from what we know of other creeks that are similarly situated we infer that the water should be at its highest about the first of June, the snow does not go off the mountains where the Hope trail crosses until about the first of July; the period when the greatest amount of snow would be melted would be about the first of June, and as the months of March and April are the months when the least snow would be melted on the mountains, it is reasonable to suppose that at that time the creek would be lower than at any other period. When we arrived at Granite creek, about the tenth of August, we found the creek higher then than it was at any time during our stay with the exception of the freshet that occurred about the thirteenth of September and lasted for two or three days. From the mouth of the creek for about five or six miles it may be said to flow through a canyon the bottom of which is but little wider than the creek in low water and

not any wider than the creek itself in high water. Even in low water there is hardly sufficient room on the margin of the creek for the first three miles to either set a tent or build a cabin, and nearly all the miners on the creek have their habitations upon small benches in the side of the mountain at heights varying from one hundred and fifty to five and seven hundred feet, and have to travel up and down for all the water they use. Some of them, when I first arrived, had to use a rope to cling to in going up and down. About a mile and a half from the mouth there is a small creek which has been named after the discoverer of Granite creek; around this creek at an elevation of seven or eight hundred feet above the bed of the main stream a small village has grown up of some twenty or thirty dwellings most of the inhabitants of which walk or rather climb down to their work in the morning and up at night. Several enterprising villagers undertook the work of sinking a shaft here which they did in a thoroughly miner-like manner. When I last heard from them they were down about fifty feet and had struck some slide rock, but had not as far as I could learn found any of the precious metal. They did not however seem to be in the least discouraged and intended to run an audit from the side of the mountain below to drain it. About two miles further on there is a place where the canyon on the north west side of the creek ceases, and the bank is comparatively easy of ascent and descent. Around this another villiage has grown, much larger than the one just mentioned, but much scattered around and taking up a much larger area of the mountain side, here they have a store well filled with miners' supplies. It is expected that here a work of considerable magnitude will be undertaken either this winter or early next spring; a company has been formed of some of our leading citizens who intend to run a tunnel through a bank or ridge for about a thousand feet. The cause of this bank or ridge seems to be that an immense mass of rock fell out of the side of the mountain, this is sup-

posed to have happened previous to the glacial period, and during that period the gorge or canyon of the creek was filled with drift as high as the top of the fallen rock. During the time that has elapsed since while the creek was wearing out its bed it was turned behind this fallen rock and this ridge from the rock to the north west bank is a part of the glacial drift that once filled the whole canyon to this level, and has not yet been washed down or sluiced out, the object of the company is to explore the old bed of the creek which is some eight or nine feet lower than its present bed. There is also a company at work fluming the creek in this neighborhood, and it is also near here where Archie McIntyre, struck what is probably the richest spot in the whole creek. I mean the richest but not the largest or best in every respect. Above this the creek is wider and the bed rock deeper and here and there, there is room to erect a small house or tent on the bank. The creek now widens out in places, and in one place immediately below the forks, there is a bar over one hundred feet in width, I have heard several give it as an opinion that there is enough gold in that bar to pay the national debt, but of course no one knows nor ever will know until a large amount of time and money is expended. I have however heard just before I left that the men who were working there had after about a month of patient toil struck it rich. If this be true then it is indeed a bonanza.

Above this bar Granite creek assumes its old canyon-like appearance for about a quarter of a mile or more, when it slightly widens out until it reaches Pogue & Co.'s upper claim, when it again assumes its canyon-like appearance. The north fork of Granite creek has so far been but little prospected. As the creek is but small and the masses of rock that form its banks are almost perpendicular, there is in many places rock slides to be removed before the bed can be reached. I am of the opinion, and so are several others, whose opinions I much respect, that for at least half a mile on the north side of this creek, about half a mile above where

it joins Granite creek, gold in paying quantities will be found. There have been reports of gold having been found up the stream two or three miles, but it is not likely, as it is certain that very little prospecting has ever been done on the creek. About a mile above Pogue & Co.'s claim, on the main stream or Granite creek, another affluent joins it about twice the size of the north fork. I have on the map called it Quartz creek, on account of a lode of quartz, by far the greatest in width that I have yet seen in the country. It is white quartz; the ledge or lode being about eleven feet in width. I could not, however, see any indications of gold. On Granite creek, about a half mile below the mouth of this creek, there is a short turn, making the bend considerably less than a right angle. In the corner as we may say, or at the apex of this angle, is a quartz lode by far the best looking of any I had yet seen. It is about two feet in width and walled up on either side with very soft slate. There were also veins of slate three or four inches wide in the quartz. I spent considerable time testing the quality, but all my efforts to find indications of gold or other precious minerals were useless. About two miles further up, the canyon of Granite creek ceases altogether, and the creek that I believe from its mouth up would average nearly two feet of fall or descent in the hundred, now will not average more than a fall of six inches in the hundred feet; this continues for about three miles, when the descent of water is more rapid. We now come to the new diggings discovered about the 5th of November last. I saw no indications of their richness when I passed over them on the 22nd of September. I, however, noticed that the gravel contained very small flakes of gold. I inferred from this that the diggings were not there but that the creek was rich several miles further up. This was just the conclusion that I and an old California miner came to when we were digging on a part of the creek that was afterwards taken up by A. McIntyre. As near as I can learn we were digging right over a piece of bed rock that after-

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wards yielded gold at the rate of about two ounces an hour to the man, and had we gone but a foot or two farther we would have struck it. That this may be the way with the diggings on the south fork lately discovered is as far as I am able to judge quite possible, but I cannot say that I even hope to hear any such good news. However I shall listen with great interest to any news that may come from those new locations.

HOW PLACER-MINING IS GENERALLY DONE ON GRANITE CREEK AND ELSEWHERE.

The way in which claims on Granite creek are usually worked is about as follows: A wing-dam, as it is called, is first constructed, which is done by first clearing out the bed of the creek along the site of the proposed wing-dam; then erecting two parallel stone walls, about two feet apart, lengthways with the creek, until the up stream end of the part desired to be worked is reached, when the walls are turned into the bank, thus enclosing about half the creek. All the water in the creek is thus turned to one side of this dam. The dam is not, however, finished until the space between those walls is filled with earth taken out of the sides of the bank; the cracks between the stones that form this dam being well chinked up with grass gathered off the sides of the mountains. Where timber is plenty wood is often used, and the dams are constructed on the crib principle. As there are no wheelbarrows in this country, boxes made out of split cedar are generally used for carrying dirt from the bank to fill in the dam. After the dam is completed and made as near water-tight as possible, a sluice box is erected. This consists of a number of sections of troughs, rather than

boxes, which are made of boards usually 12 feet long. The bottom board in each of those sections being 12 feet long, 12 inches wide at one end and ten at the other. The sides are generally 10 inches high, thus enabling the down-stream end of one section of the sluice box to slip easily into the up stream end of the section below it. Riffles to catch the gold, or rather to keep the gold from washing out at the lower end of the box, are put in at the lower end of these sections. These riffles consist of a number of pieces of small timber, about an inch and a half in diameter, and flattened on two sides until they are all of the same thickness, and are generally ten and a half inches long. They are put in a row about half an inch apart, and a piece about a half an inch thick nailed on their ends, thus constituting a frame similar to a ladder with the rounds very close together, measuring about twelve inches in width, and from three to four feet in length. These riffles, however, are sometimes put in lengthways, and those small pieces of timber are four feet long instead of ten and a half inches. Which is the best way can be determined by experiment, as they are easily made, and every person can be easily suited, which ever style he prefers. If the sluice box is made water-tight, and the riffles put in and the water turned into the up stream end, the work of sluicing out the gravel in the side of the creek, enclosed by the wing, dam is commenced. It generally requires four or five men to shovel into the sluice box, and one to stand in the water at the lower end to shovel away the tailings. The water in the sluice box has to have a current sufficiently strong to wash away all the stones and gravel thrown into it. As gold is supposed to be heavier than anything else, it takes more force to carry it over those riffles, and therefore finds its way down between them, and remains in the bottom until the riffles are taken out. This is generally done in the evening, and all the gravel and sand washed away. There is, however, a black sand that seems to always accom any gold,

and as it is much heavier than any other sand found in creeks it stays with the gold, and is generally taken out of the sluice box with it. There are also small pieces of iron rock, called the devil's dice, that are afterwards picked out in the wash-pan. The gold, while in the wash-pan, is then placed over a fire and thoroughly dried, after which a magnet is used to take the black sand out of it. As this sand seems to be like iron filings in every respect it adheres to the magnet, and is taken out and the sand brushed off. There is, however, a curious metal found, more or less, in every wash-up of gold on Granite creek. It is of the same weight as the gold, at least so near that I could not detect any difference, and I have known several others who have tried it, and came to the same conclusion. If there was any difference at all between it and the gold it was the heaviest. In shape it exactly resembles the gold, and I believe that had it been of the same color no person up to the present time would have suspected that it was anything else. It was at first thought to be platina, as that is the only metal that is generally supposed to be heavier than gold. It was said afterwards to be irridium, and again an amalgam of silver, called arquerate of iron. I understand that some of it has been sent to Montreal, to be thoroughly tested. The result will be watched by all enquiring minds with considerable interest. Quicksilver is also used on the riffle-principle to keep the gold from washing out of the sluice box; the well-known fact that gold is heavier than quicksilver being taken advantage of, and everything else that is thrown into the sluice box being lighter than gold, and also lighter than quicksilver, and everything having to pass over a small pool of quicksilver, of course nothing but the gold sinks to the bottom. Quicksilver is seldom used unless the gold is in very small particles, when a small pool of it is placed near the lower end of the sluice box, to catch the small particles that naturally drift farther than the rest. As the gold on Granite creek is very coarse, the use of quicksilver is alto-

gether unnecessary, and I am not aware of it having been used in a single instance. It is, however, generally used along both forks of the Similkameen—on bars along the river, and in places where bed-rock cannot be reached. The rocker is generally used in testing claims—finding out whether they are likely to pay or not; and frequently, for want of means, and on account of the difficulty of procuring lumber, and there not being a sufficient descent of water in the creek, and for many other reasons, the rocker is all that is used for working out claims. This resembles an ordinary wooden box, placed on rockers similar to those of a cradle. A sieve is placed over an opening in the top of the box, and filled with the pay dirt, a man stands alongside of this box, with one hand rocking it from side to side, and with the other bailing water into the sieve; all the gold, as well as the stones small enough to pass through the seive are washed down an incline, along which riffles are placed, and out at one end of the box. On account of the smallness of the space the incline is first in one direction and then the opposite. The first incline nearest the top often consists of a frame with small slats several inches apart, over which a piece of woolen blanket is spread, the spaces between those slats where the blanket sags serving for riffles to catch the gold.

How the wash-pan is used, is hardly worth the trouble of describing to a person of good common sense. The directions for its use are—Fill it nearly full of dirt, then quite full of water, and shake it until you think all the gold in it has settled to the bottom; then put the pan under water, and as gently as possible wash all the dirt out of it, taking care all the time to keep the gold down to the lowest place. This is done by giving the pan an occasional shake sideways, and thus, by continual washing and shaking, you will come to about half an inch of black sand in the turn at the bottom of the pan. You can find out whether there is any gold there or not by patiently washing it away, or washing

it over the bottom of the pan. If there is any gold there you will see it at once, as the black sand forms an excellent back ground. The only word of caution needed is—Don't let the wash-pan get greasy. This may be considered unnecessary; but when the gold-pan is also used for mixing bread in and baking it, as well as for frying meat and washing dishes, this advice might save many persons considerable annoyance.

HOW TO GET THERE.—THE HOPE TRAIL.

The most convenient way for persons who live on the Pacific coast to get to Granite creek is by the Hope trail, which runs from Fort Hope on the Fraser River to the junction of the North and South forks of the Similkameen. The distance by this route to the mines on Granite creek is 78 miles. In a direct line however the distance is not much more than half that traversed by the present route; but as it is now too late in the season to talk of opening any new routes the present Hope trail is the one that will be used in the great rush that is certain to ensue as soon as the spring opens. I propose therefore to give all persons who contemplate going there in the spring as correct an idea as I possibly can of the difficulties, dangers, and privations, that will certainly have to be undergone by every person who is determined to get there. I think, therefore, that I can do no better service than give my own experience, that is, give the details of the journey I undertook over the Hope trail during the month of August last, (1885) and relate my impressions in regard to the journey, and everything else that I think would interest the seekers of the precious metal in the Similkameen country. I might

also say that I am a man in the prime of life, considerably above the average size, and possess more than the average power of endurance, and persons who may read the facts now laid before them can arrive at their own conclusions in regard to the best way to meet the difficulties of the undertaking. I will also, as I proceed, show what I would have done were I to undertake the same journey again, and also give to the readers of this the benefit of an experience of three months and a half in the country, and two trips over this trail.

I left Yale about noon on the 5th of August and came down on the train to Hope. I crossed over the Fraser River in the ferry canoe, got an outfit of provisions at Mr. Waddell's store, and about five o'clock in the evening, after taking a good square meal at one of the hotels, I, with six others that constituted our party, started on our journey. Our outfit consisted of provisions for four days, blankets, some clothing and mining implements, which averaged about sixty or seventy pounds to the man. The trail for the first twenty-five miles has at one time been a waggon road, but as nothing in the way of repairs has been done on it for over twenty years there is not more than a mile or two in any part of it that can be travelled with a waggon. The trail that constitutes the balance of the route is in good condition and considering the difficulties that have been encountered it may be considered first-class. After leaving Hope we made four miles when night closed in on us; we spread our blankets under a tree and built a fire. As we were preparing to turn in for the night the sound of footsteps were heard and a party of officers of the law came up, who demanded our names, and we all had to pass inspection. They went away satisfied that the man they were looking for did not belong to our party. In the morning we resumed our up-hill journey, which was a continual ascent until near noon, when we reached the height of land or the divide which separates the waters of the Skagit from that which

flows into the Fraser. Our plan before leaving Hope was to reach the Fourteen-mile House by noon the next day, then get to cedar flats that night and get seven or eight miles the other side of the summit by the following night, and make Mr. Alliston's ranch the next day. After reaching the height of land we saw a small lake on the right hand side of our trail, this had evidently been the crater of a volcano which had been in action at some time since the glacial epoch. We had now followed the Nicolame river its whole length and had reached the head waters of the Sumallow, which is a branch of the Skagit, and empties its waters into Puget Sound a little north of Whatcom. The trail now for a considerable distance is comparatively level. When we arrived at the Fourteen-mile House, or where the Fourteen-mile House was said to be, we neither found the Fourteen-mile House, or any other kind of a house. I concluded, therefore, that it existed only in the mind of some theorist, who thought that some such place might, could, would, should, or ought to be there. It was, however, told, for my special benefit, that the house had been there, but had been burned down about twenty-five years ago. This may have been a fact, although I did not see even a handful of ashes, or any other indication that a house ever existed in the locality. However, it is certain that the Fourteen-mile House of to-day is not a myth, but an actual bona-fide log cabin, covered with shakes, but minus a door, and I have heard say that for the small sum of four bits a man can have the soft side of a plank split out of a cedar log to sleep on and rest his weary limbs. This some may call rough, but it is luxurious compared with situations that miners are often placed in. Along in the afternoon we met a pack-train coming in from the mines. The men in charge of it gave such a discouraging account of the mines that several of our party became disheartened, and one young man, a half breed, became completely discouraged, and turned back. The rest of the party kept on, and we camped

at night on the banks of the creek, under an almost perpendicular wall of rock over three thousand feet high. On my return from the mines I travelled from twelve o'clock until night in the shade of this rock, never at any time obtaining a single glimpse of the sun. We passed cedar flats about 11 o'clock the next day, and that night we encamped in about three miles of the summit. That evening we met a young man, with whom we were all well acquainted, who was returning from the mines completely disgusted. He told us that there was not more than a mile and a half of the creek good for anything; what gold there was was in pockets, and it cost more to find those pockets or pay streaks than they were worth after they were found, and there was no chance for a man to get anything without going to an expense of several hundred dollars on a wing-dam, and nothing could be done, not even prospecting, without a wing-dam, etc. However we were not discouraged, but started on the next morning, and, after a long up-hill tramp, where the trail had to be made in a zig-zag fashion, as the hill was too steep to be ascended any other way, we reached the summit. The mountain scenery around the head of the Skagit is the grandest I ever beheld. There is also along the trail we traversed this morning what seems to me to be unmistakable evidence of a rich gold-producing region; and I shall be much disappointed if rich diggings are not yet found in this neighborhood. It should here be remarked that from the end of the wagon road, at the head of the Skagit to the summit, there is another trail besides the one I have been describing, called the canyon trail. To follow this would make the journey a little longer, but it is a consideration to those who are traveling with horses to know that there is more grass along this trail than the one we traveled. On reaching the summit we found everything looking as though it was the month of April or May, instead of August. The weather was balmy, the grass fresh and green. Strawberries were just getting ripe, and spring flowers of every descrip-

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tion were in full bloom. On passing the summit a very marked change was noticed. The country on the other side of the summit looked like some old deserted farm, the grass looking green and fresh, and the country having the appearance of a rolling prairie. This kind of country continued until we reached the corral, where we had dinner. We traveled on the rest of the day, until we reached the nine-mile creek, where we encamped for the night. Here we were overtaken by our half-breed companion who had turned back in disgust. It seems that on his way back he felt ashamed of his conduct, and followed on after us. It might be interesting to know that about five weeks after this he left the creek with over 500 dollars in gold. The rest of our journey to Mr. Alliston's ranch, which is called on the maps Princeton, was through a beautiful grazing country, where we arrived about noon. Here, for the first time, I met John Chance, the discoverer of Granite creek, who showed some specimens of the gold, and gave me his history of its discovery, and told me how he had found the blue gravel belt, and had traced it all the way from California, and had followed it up till he reached the blow-out, and referred me to Humbolt's Cosmos for proof of his theory. I found him whole-souled, warm-hearted, and ready and willing to oblige in any way. This, however, I might say of all the cow-boys I have met in the country. It seems to be only when they get outside of a certain quantity of whisky that they are disposed to those acts of lawlessness that have made them famous all over the world. In the morning following we started to finish our journey of twelve miles to Granite creek. We had very wisely employed an Indian, or Siwash as they are called here, to carry our packs on horseback to the end of our journey, and reached Granite creek about noon. There is a mountain two or three thousand feet high to be passed over between Alliston's and Granite creek. There is a creek before you commence the ascent, and no more water until you get pretty well over it.

Travelers carrying heavy packs, not aware of this, have often suffered from thirst. Our journey was completed about noon on Saturday, thus making four and a half days of actual travel. I do not however wish it to be inferred that it cannot be done in less time. On my return trip I traveled alone, and left Granite creek on Thursday, about 2 o'clock, and arrived at Hope about noon on the Sunday following, thus making it on foot in less than three days. I would, however, advise any person who wishes to make this journey, before he leaves Hope, to purchase a horse, or one of those small ponies owned by the Indians, which are called cayuses. These are sold on an average of from twenty to thirty dollars each; and if it were for nothing other than looks I would say buy a cayuse, if you are not altogether dead-broke, or buy a cayuse if you can afford to. You will then have a horse to ride after you get there, and as this is looked on as a patent of nobility, or a kind of certificate that you at some time had been somebody, it becomes an almost actual necessity for you to have one. Of course, when you get there you will have to turn him out to grass on the mountains, and the likelihood of your ever seeing him again, without costing quite as much as the animal is worth, is not by any means encouraging; but then, if you don't find him, buy another. Look after your dignity; the usages of society must not be disregarded. When horses are only twenty dollars each a man must indeed be a tramp who would walk. Therefore, I would say to everyone, or at least to every small party of men:—*Buy a horse and a good saddle.* You need not put any bridle or halter on him. Just drive him on ahead of you, and he will pick his living as he goes. You require to take a rope with you, forty or fifty feet long, so that you can stake him out at night. In this way you can travel comfortably, and when you get to Granite creek you can go into town with enough dignity to make the impression that you are not a beat or a tramp, but most likely a man of means. I should mention also that by the time the rush

commences in the spring many of the inconveniences of travel will have disappeared. There is now a fourteen-mile house, and very shortly there will be a twenty-nine mile house opened, and a house the other side of the summit I am told is soon to be erected. These, with the house on Brumley's ranch, will furnish all the stopping places needed on the route. I do not know of any more that I could say that would be of any benefit, other than it will not pay to take any mining implements with you, as these can be obtained there at far less prices than you would be willing to carry them there for. A tent and two pair of blankets you must have if you wish to do any prospecting. These, however, can also be obtained there; but it is always wise to be sure that you are comfortable at night when traveling among mountains.

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

The town at the mouth of Granite creek is distant	
FROM	MILES.
Hope.....	78
Yale.....	93
Spence's Bridge.....	102
Kamloops.....	107
Eagle Pass (via Okonagon lake).....	158
Victoria (via Fort Hope).....	234
Victoria (via Spence's Bridge).....	356
Nanaimo.....	172
Nicola Valley.....	65
Kettle River country.....	103
Okonagon Lake.....	62
Okonagon Mission.....	107
Kootenay.....	246

TABLE OF DISTANCES—CONTINUED.

FROM.	MILES.
The summit on the Hope trail	35
Alliston's ranch	11
Brumley's ranch (by the new trail)	12
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IS THE COUNTRY HEALTHY?

The country is healthy. There never was a healthier place under the sun. These are a sample of the answers that will be given in every instance to persons who ask the above question. I am not sure that any person there has been sick of more than what are called ordinary indispositions; and I am sure that no person has died there since the mining excitement started, unless within the last week, or since the latest news came from there. There was a doctor—a man of acknowledged ability—one of the best in the country, came out there to practice at the time the rainy season commenced, the most unhealthy time during the year, but it was no use, there was nothing for him to do there, so he packed up and left.

A CURIOUS INCIDENT.

When in Eastern Canada I heard of a place out in the Western states so healthy that they had to shoot a man to start a burying ground. But a better story than this can be told about Granite creek, as it seems that even in that way

they cannot start a burying ground. I saw a cowboy shoot a man in the forehead with the most murderous-looking revolver I ever saw, and at a distance of not more than two or three rods. Whether the above object was what he intended, or what it was I do not know; but the facts of the case are: When shot the man fell like an ox, but was instantly on his feet again, and has been going around attending to his business ever since. His name is James Newlan. How it was that he lived is a mystery that I cannot explain; neither have I ever heard any explanation given that seemed at all satisfactory in regard to it.

THE TRAIL FROM EAGLE PASS THROUGH THE SPILLAMACHEEN COUNTRY.

This trail is by far the best to be taken by any person coming from the East who wishes to see the country, and form for himself some idea of its capabilities, and would be the route best suited to the agriculturist, stock-raiser, or sportsman. The first thirty miles is taken by a steamer. This brings the traveler to the Spillamacheen country. Here he will see some excellent farming land undergoing a high state of cultivation. A journey of twenty miles, over a good wagon road, will bring him to the head of Oakonagon lake. He can now take the east side, and go as far as the Mission, and then cross the lake, or he can take a sail-boat that plies on the lake, and go the whole length of it if he chooses; or he can take the west side, and twenty-five miles will bring him to Short's hotel. From Short's hotel to Princeton there is an old Hudson Bay trail that would be thirty miles shorter than going down to the southern end of the lake. This trail has probably been opened up since the gold excitement broke

out. If not, he will have to go south thirty-five miles, and then up the Similkameen forty miles, when he will arrive at Princeton. From Princeton it is eleven miles up the north fork to the mouth of Granite creek. The town at the mouth of this creek is now, and is likely to be, the great centre of the mining industry of the Similkameen country. If you think of engaging in mining operations this is to be your head quarters. If you have not yet seen any agricultural or grazing land to suit you, you can move on up the river along the Otter river trail to Nicola Valley. From there you can go either to Spence's Bridge, or Kamloops. But, if it is possible to suit you, you must certainly have been satisfied, as no better farming or grazing land is to be seen anywhere.

FROM WHOM INFORMATION MAY BE GAINED.

Persons desiring further information would do well to write to the following gentlemen, viz.: Capt. Sherbourne, Henry Nicholson, of Granite creek, and J. F. Alliston, of Princeton, Similkameen country.

Henry Nicholson is the Recorder for the Granite creek district, and, until recently, was the owner, along with Thomas Cole, of a claim about half a mile from the mouth of the creek. Capt. Sherbourne is the proprietor of the best known claim on the creek, it being right in front of the business part of the town, and has had a record of over seven hundred dollars per day, of 24 hours. The captain is a man well known as a gentleman, because he cannot be anything else, it being natural to him. He is strictly honest, straightforward and square in his dealings, and thoroughly reliable. Mr. Alliston is the cattle-king of this country, and has resided here for over twenty years, and has filled

the office of Gold Commissioner, I believe, for about that length of time. He is unquestionably the best authority there is in regard to the stock-raising and agricultural interests. As I do not think he has seen enough of Granite creek to form any correct idea of what there is there, I could not recommend him as an authority on mining matters. The other gentlemen, however, are thoroughly practical miners, and have been on the creek ever since it was discovered. I have taken the liberty of using the names of those gentlemen without permission. I am, however, satisfied from what I know of the captain that he would cheerfully and promptly answer any honest enquiry, although it costs fifty cents to get a letter, and the same to mail one; and as no one, except a beat or a tramp or a thief, ever expects to get anything in this world without giving some value in return, I would recommend all who wish for information to use some of the *financial grease* that keeps the world moving, as it is likely that it will add to the quality, as well as the quantity, of the information received.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET THERE.

This is a very important consideration, and can better be determined on arriving than told six months before you are there. But it is well known that every person can do better in the second attempt than he can the first. So it is not possible for a man to know as well what to do on arriving at Granite creek as one who had spent several months there already. When you arrive next spring Granite creek may have lost its prestige, and be only a second or third-rate creek, or it may then be what it is now—the best in the country. If this should be the case, then you had better try

your luck in the best place you can find on the creek. All the claims on the creek have been laid over until the 15th of June, 1866, so that if the Gold Commissioner does not issue any new orders, on the 18th of June, or three days afterward, all the claims on the creek that are not represented will be forfeited, unless some reasonable cause can be shown for their non-representation. It is more than likely that there will be a large number of claims unrepresented. If there is improve your chance. Take the first claim you come to. If you should have the choice of several, take the one on the lee side of some point; if there is a high bluff of rock, your chances for finding it rich are much greater. This rocky point, should be on the north-west side of the creek. If you should happen to get on a good claim, you are pretty sure to be accused of being hoggish, or called a claim-jumper, by those who were not quite so fortunate; but if you have a good claim you can afford to stand a little abuse. It is hardly to be expected that a good business man will let a good chance slip just for the sake of manners. Besides it is business; and no business man will find any fault with another for taking a lawful advantage when he knows that he is right and the way is clear. Of course, the great point is to be sure that you are right. It often happens when claims are staked out that the names of more persons than are there are put on the stakes, and it also frequently happens that claims are taken by persons who do not intend to work them, and are held for speculative purposes. It is your privilege, or rather your duty, to fetch all such persons to time, and the law gives you all the power that you require to do so. If you hear of some person on the creek that has four hundred feet of it, and you go there and find that there is only two men working there, and you are thoroughly convinced that those two are all that ever *had* worked there, then, if you want a claim, all you need to do is stake it off, and go and record it. Your title to it is then as good as it possibly can be. Of course, if you wish to speculate in claims there

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is nothing to hinder you or any one else trying your hand at it. But you will see by the act that all claims must be worked, or else they are forfeited, so it will cost any person who wishes to speculate in mining property on Granite creek, just four dollars per day for every hundred feet of the creek he tries to hold—that is the wages of one man for every hundred feet which the law requires must be represented. This, every one knows, is too much interest altogether for the investment, and speculating in mining property will never get a consideration from any person that knows anything about the way things are generally done around placer mines. If, therefore, you know of any person who wishes to speculate, *go for him straight*, see that he has no more ground than is “faithfully and not colorably” worked, as that is just what the law requires, and make him dig or get out, and give place to some one who will work it as it ought to be worked. I have no doubt that there are some who will say that this is encouraging claim-jumping, and apt to cause trouble; but I feel well assured that if these remarks produce any effect it will be exactly the opposite. My experience is, that the worst trouble arises when the law is so seldom enforced that people get it into their heads that it is a hardship to have it enforced at all, and this state of things continues until loose, careless ways of doing things are the rule. There should be no fault found with any person for taking advantage of anyone who may be violating the law, as it will make others realize that it is to their advantage to have things done just right; and when everything is done just according to law, all danger of trouble is avoided. You cannot, therefore, be too particular in seeing that your ground is properly staked in *exactly* the way described in the act. This is the first thing that you have to do to secure the property; and if you have recorded it, you can go on and work the claim out, and as long as you are quietly working there is no danger of being molested. Your claim may be rich, al-

though you may see no indication of richness for the first two or three feet. You cannot get any idea of what you are going to get until you are near the bed-rock. If you should come to five or six inches of hard, stiff clay before you reach the bed-rock you have struck a fortune. After you reach the bed-rock you will have to be very careful to thoroughly clean out all the cracks and crevices, as it is there that probably the greatest amount of the wealth of your claim lies. You cannot be too particular. You should in fact use a sledge-hammer, and break the surface of the rock down, and smooth it off and wash it thoroughly. If Granite creek should be considered next spring to be only a second-rate creek, and some of the new discoveries should attract the most attention, I would say, if you can get any hold on Granite creek stay with it. Its richness has been thoroughly tested; and "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." But it is quite possible that there may not for many who read this book be even a ghost of a chance on Granite creek. It is being the case all you can do is to try the next creek that you hear about, and if there has been gold discovered on it, stake out a claim as near as you possibly can to where the gold has been found. If the creek flows from the north it is hardly possible for it to be rich. The reason for this I will explain in the chapter on the origin of the gold deposits. If it flows from the south or west it is possible that it may be rich; a south-eastwardly direction is also favorable. If it flows from the north or north-west, and proves rich, it is I believe an exception to all the creeks in British Columbia. What has been said about the lee-side of points on the north and north-west sides of creeks will I think apply to all creeks everywhere. If the ledges of rock cross the stream at nearly a right angle with its general course, and those ledges are principally loose slate, this might be taken as a very favorable sign. If the rock of whatever kind is much decomposed, and easily falls to pieces particularly where it is called red-iron rock, it is likely that

the bed-rock in the creek is rich if there is any gold in the neighborhood.

I think it also proper to say that if you have a revolver and bowie-knife it would be well for you to leave them at home, unless you think that the revolver would be useful in killing grouse, and the bowie-knife in slicing up bacon. If you intend them for any other use you are only making resolves that you know in your own heart and soul you will never carry out. But if you are determined to carry out any such purpose you will make either a murderer or a regular ass of yourself, the chances being over a hundred to one that it will be the latter. I am assured, by the highest and best authority, that the law will be as strictly and rigidly enforced on Granite creek next summer as it has been in other parts of the country. There is to be a new order of things, and the law administered in a way that will command respect, and make any person who thought of taking it into his own hands ashamed to think that such an idea ever occurred to him. The country is now furnished with a good example of what is likely to result from a man thinking that he can make weapons useful in asserting his mining rights and privileges. The man to whom I refer is R. E. Sproule, of the Kootenay district, who it seems entertained this idea, and put it into practice with the result that he has been arrested, tried for murder, convicted, and sentenced to be hanged on the 6th of March next.

TO WORKINGMEN.

To those who go there and do not intend to take up claims or work them, but simply work at whatever they can find to do, I cannot say that the prospect is particularly assuring.

That great curse of the whole Pacific Coast (the Chinamen) is here as well as everywhere else, and will work at whatever he can find to do, and persons who work at ordinary labor for a living are obliged to compete with this miserable race of heathen slaves. Although I never knew as high wages paid to them as to white men, still there is no reasonable doubt but that the wages paid would be nearly double what they are if it were not for the presence of this Asiatic curse. The captain, who has had the most men employed of any claim-owner on the creek, has paid three dollars per day, which I think is the highest he ever paid for any kind of work. Board by the week is seven dollars, or fifty cents per meal. Any person wishing to work at mining must provide himself with a pair of india-rubber, or gum boots, which here cost from 8 to 12 dollars, and a pick and a shovel, which will cost from 5 to 7 dollars. The work is not of the kind that poets and romance writers prefer to picture their heroes engaged in. It is to stand in the bottom of a pit, in water up to your knees, and pitch gravel into a sluice box filled with water, and perhaps several feet higher than your head, or perhaps you may have the job of shoveling tailings away from the lower end of a sluice box, or be engaged in cleaning out the stones out of the bottom of the creek, or else carrying dirt out from the bank in a box. This work is easy, and would not be noticed if a man is working for himself, and expects to find several thousand dollars when he reaches bed-rock; but when a man is working for wages, and those wages are what he considers small, it goes rather hard. I think the wages paid for mining up the creek are, as a rule, three dollars and board; at least I have heard of that amount being paid. But still I am of the opinion that three dollars per day will be about the most that any ordinary laborer can expect to receive next summer. Carpenters and tradesmen of every sort receive about the same. The business that gives employment to a large number of men is whip-sawing. The price of lum-

ber when I first went to Granite creek was fifteen cents per foot. Afterwards it was reduced to twelve, and finally to ten, which price it has remained firm ever since, and is likely to remain so. It is expected that a sawmill will be put up somewhere around here next summer; but still the whip-saw business will go on as lively as ever. As there are no roads in this country all the lumber has to be carried on men's shoulders, and of course the distance adds much to the expense, and it will be found easier and cheaper to whip-saw the lumber and have it just where it is wanted. Splitting out cedar shakes and building houses is another occupation that gives employment to a considerable number of men. Drawing in logs for houses will, I expect, give employment to several teams and teamsters at good wages. I do not know just what was paid for a day's work of a man and his team, I think about seven dollars; but the work was generally done by the job—that is drawing in logs by the piece; a dollar a log I have heard is the usual charge. I know of one man who declared that he could not make anything at teaming, nor do I think this unlikely, as five cents per pound is the usual price for hay, and six cents a pound for oats. Of course next spring things will be entirely different in this respect. From a general review of the situation I will say to any man who depends on his day labor for a living, if you come here make up your mind to go at mining for yourself, but if you cannot I do not see any reason why your chances will not be as good here as in any other part of British Columbia.

INFORMATION FOR THE TOURIST AND SPORTSMAN.

To those gentlemen in Toronto and Hamilton, who are in the habit of spending a month or two of the summer in camping out in the neighborhood of Muskoka Lake, I would

say: Next summer make a little change in the programme, and come to a place where mosquitoes, black flies, and other insect pests of that description are almost unknown. You had then better figure and arrange things so that you can take the C. P. Railway and come to British Columbia, and spend whatever time you have to spare in the Similkameen country. You would, by thus doing patronize a railway that deserves your patronage.

The Canadian Pacific Company is the most enterprising railway company in the world, and have undertaken greater risks, with less prospect of immediate return, than any other corporation of the kind on the continent; and its interests are more linked with the future of our country than any other railway is, or can be. I do not know whether the Northern extension is completed up to Lake Nippising or not. If it is you can take the route by your favorite Muskoka Lake to Callander, and thence by the C. P. R. around north of the Georgian Bay and Lake Superior to Port Arthur. But I would recommend the route by what was once the T. G. & B. Railway to Owen Sound; thence by steamer to Port Arthur, where you will take the C. P. Railway for Winnipeg. To those who are in any way interested in machinery, I would say stop at Fort William and take a look at the new elevator. It has a capacity of one million three hundred thousand bushels. The rubber belt that drives the machinery is probably the largest in the world. It is four feet wide, 16 ply (I think), and weighs I do not remember how many tons, and is three or four hundred feet long. If you care to look at scenery you should take a day at Rat Portage. This will afford you a little relaxation, after a ride about the same distance as from Montreal to Toronto. Here you will have all your Muskoka Lake scenery reproduced—only more interesting and magnificent. The falls on the Winnipeg river will well repay for the trouble and cost of a visit. I will not take the trouble to describe the route, as it has been re-

ferred to in another place. I will only say that after you pass through Manitoba, and that "lone land that is destined to be homes for the teeming millions of Europe," the Rocky Mountains, the Selkirks, the Gold range, and across the Columbia River twice, you will find yourself on the shore of Shushwap Lake at a small town called Eagle Pass. You can, if you choose, take a steamer, and go thirty miles south to the Spillamacheen country. After you are there you can buy a horse at a price that will suit, which price ranges all the way from ten, fifteen and twenty dollars, up to a hundred. the average price being about twenty-five dollars. After you have purchased a horse and a camping outfit, you can start out and go just where you please. The country, for hundreds of miles, is covered with grass and trees that do not at all interfere with a person traveling on horseback. You can, if you choose, take the route I have described through the Spillamacheen country. But, perhaps, when you arrive at Eagle Pass your better plan would be to stick to the train a little while longer, and go on to Kamloops. You will thus be enabled to take a view of the magnificent scenery around Salmon arm. I spent about four weeks here last spring, along with the engineers who were leveling the railroad. So numerous were the wild geese and swans in the neighborhood that it was difficult to get to sleep at night on account of the incessant noise they kept up; the mouth of Salmon River being a stopping and pairing place for them on their way north. Kamloops is the largest and most important inland town in British Columbia, and it is almost certain that it will continue to maintain this reputation. You, or each of your party, when you arrive here can buy a horse to ride, and one or two pack-horses or mules, or whatever number is wanted for the size of the party. If there are any ladies in the party they will enjoy the trip as well as the men. The country is all covered with grass, over which the fire occasionally sweeps, burning up all the brush and fallen timber, and leaving only

the large trees standing. The result of this is, no small brush is allowed to grow, and only the trees that have a very thick bark, on which the prairie fires do not have any effect. This being the case all over the country, it, for hundreds of miles, resembles an old English park, the trees being nearly all of the fir and white pine variety, or rather a very soft kind of Norway, called here *bull pine*, or sugar pine. These trees being very large, and not more than five or six on an average to the acre, are no more in the way of a person riding on horseback than if they were not there at all. They have comparatively short trunks and spreading tops, and shade the ground just enough to protect the grass from the withering effects of the hot sun, and keep it looking fresh and green. This country, particularly down towards the south fork of the Similkameen, is, during the fall months, swarming with deer, principally of the black-tailed variety. They are, in many respects, different from the deer in Ontario and Michigan. They are of a darker color, and shorter in the legs and plumper and heavier in the body. They are not so wild; neither do they run as fast. The tail, however, is the most distinguishing feature. There are, also, the mule deer. This country, it seems to me, must be a perfect Paradise for sportsmen. Here a party of gentlemen and ladies on horseback, going through the country, could occasionally start up a herd of deer, or a coyote, or a fox, or a jack-ass rabbit, and chase it for hours without having any ditches, or stiles, or farms, or fences, or in fact anything to interfere with the chase, thus putting out of time the liveliest foxhunt ever seen in the old country. The deer, in the spring time and during the greater part of the summer, are found on the high lands. Here they remain, as the air is cooler, and the grass greener and fresher, until the latter part of September, when they come down and remain in the low lands all winter. Along the sides of the mountains they have trails so well beat and worn that it is

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hard to believe that they were not the work of man. They were the engineers that laid out the trail up Granite creek, and all the other trails on the sides of the mountains.

Another kind of game is the mountain sheep. This is a wild sheep that is found along the snow-line on the mountains. In the months of August and September it will be found only high up in the mountains. As many of the tops of the cascades are covered with perpetual snow, a sheep hunt up to the snow-line would be a very interesting trip, particularly if the hunter made the study of botany a part of the object of the expedition. He would find strawberries fully ripe, and further up they would be in bloom, and then the earliest spring flowers. He would also be likely to see the celebrated ice-flower, (I do not know any other name for it) growing out of the ice, or rather out of holes through the ice. Bears in some parts of this country are numerous, but they are harmless brutes. The coyote, an animal that seems to be a cross between the fox and the wolf, is also seen here. I have heard of their being seen frequently between the Nicola river and the north fork, but never south of the last-mentioned river. There are three different kinds of grouse—the most numerous is a kind that resembles the partridge of Ontario in every respect. There is also the prairie chicken—much smaller—and a very large kind, the *blue grouse*, which is a game bird, second only to the wild turkey. Wild geese and swans are at some seasons of the year very numerous, and at all seasons, when the lakes are not frozen over, they are literally swarming with a great variety of ducks. Beaver along the Otter river are very numerous, and are to be found on every stream suitable to their mode of existence. Other fur-bearing animals are numerous, such as the marten, mink, musk-rat, etc.

To persons coming into a country where there are no roads, or wheels, or hotels, or restaurants, a few words as to how, when and where to camp, and the methods of trans-

port generally in use in this country, forms by no means the least valuable part of a traveler's experience. A tent should always form a part of a traveler's equipment. Camping out is all very well. Sleeping with no other canopy than the starry vault sounds very romantic and pretty, but no one with a grain of experience would voluntarily sleep in the open air if a tent was procurable. If you can't do what you like, you must do what you can. In the absence of canvas a sky roof is about the only alternative. Assuming that a tent is available, the kind of tent that I would recommend is a "gable-end," or "dog-kennel," *twelve-ell* tent, with a seven-foot ridge pole, and two six feet upright poles. Or, if this kind of tent is not procurable, and nothing better can be done, you can buy 20 yards of ordinary drilling, and cut it into five yard lengths, and stitch the edges together. You would then have what is called a *fly*, which would be a shelter from the rain, and would be all that would be absolutely essential in traveling in the summer time. You need not carry tent-poles, as there are numberless streams of the purest water, and your camping place will necessarily be near one of them, and there is always a sufficient amount of young timber in the neighborhood for that purpose. For bed, a horse-hair mattress, three feet six inches wide and six feet long, two blankets, a buffalo skin, and waterproof wrapper to spread on the ground, and roll the blankets in; when traveling it can be easily carried with a tent, and will be found very pleasant to sleep on at night, or lounge on in the day. Great care should be exercised in packing up the bedding. Rain is apt to come just when you least expect it. If the bed be well rolled up it should be impervious to water, and therefore safe against any accident from wet. Finding the bedding soaked on camping takes much of the romance out of such a trip. As for tools, a three and a half pound axe is about all that is needed. A strong case-knife, such as pork butchers use, is by far the

best knife for general purposes. A frying-pan, for baking or frying; a large tin pan, for mixing bread; a pot to boil coffee, or make tea; a tin pannakin, and a pail to dip water and keep near the camp fire for any purpose, are about all the cooking utensils needed. A water-proof bag, made of strong canvas painted (such as sailors use) is very handy, in which note books and writing gear can be stowed away. For clothing, I give the preference to good Scotch tweed, as a material better suited to stand wear and tear, and supply warmth without weight than any fabric I have ever tried. Skin shoes and moccasins do very well for Indians, whose feet are as hard and tough as a saddle-flap, but take advice, and get a pair of long boots, or a pair of strong "lace-ups" with heavy soles. How to put on a pack is hardly worth describing, as a man who has had no experience of any kind with horses could no more learn how he could do it right than he could to play on a flute from reading printed directions. He must learn from seeing it done, and from doing it himself. The best way, therefore, for a party who never had any experience in traveling on this coast is to employ a Siwash (Indian) to accompany them through the whole trip. He will make a first-class guide, will look after the packing, will see the animals put out to grass at night and collected in the morning, and be useful in many ways. His charges will not be exorbitant, and, unlike the Indians of Eastern Canada, when he gets all you agreed to pay him he is satisfied. They are perfectly trustworthy. Pilfering or stealing from anything committed to their care is something I never knew them to be charged with. They will carry cases of whisky just as safely as they will any other kind of merchandise.

For packing purposes mules are much preferable to horses, as they can live on less, put up with worse treatment, and possess greater power of endurance. Stubbornness and mischievousness are their principal faults. They

may, by good treatment, by petting and firm, but gentle dealing, become very much attached to their owner or master. I knew an old miner who had a mule for about fifteen years that would follow him like a dog wherever he happened to go, and would never be out of his sight for any great length of time, and never needed tying up by night or day. Their respect for and attachment to the bell-mare is something extraordinary. In all mule trains a grey mare with a bell always goes ahead, and the mules, no matter how many, are sure to follow. At night the bell-mare can be staked out, or hobbled, and none of the mules will stray out beyond the sound of the bell. The mare must be gray, and have a bell on in order to command respect from the mulish herd. Why no other kind but a gray mare can command their respect is something not easily explained. It is certain that the bell-mare has no respect for them. If they come too close to her she will rush furiously at them with her teeth, and use her hind feet vigorously to keep them at a respectable distance.

On leaving Kamloops you can take the trail to Nicola Lake, past the Nicola Mining and Milling Company's property, Quilchenna and Scott's hotel. At the latter place you have the choice of two routes if your destination is Granite creek. You can go by the way of Princeton, or by the shorter trail down the valley of the Cold-water and Otter rivers. If any of the party are desirous of sketching they will find the scenery around Nicola lake and the lakes along the valley of the Otter river all that the most fastidious could desire for the exercise of their ability in this respect. At the mouth of the Otter river, where it flows into the north fork of the Similkameen, there is a broad flat a little more than a half mile square, called on the map the *campment des femmes*, which is bounded on three sides by the Otter lake, Otter river, and the Similkameen—a place of surpassing beauty and loveliness, and for richness of soil

hard to be excelled. I do not think that any person need to be possessed of the gift of prophecy, or anything more than good, sound common sense, to be able to predict that at no distant day this place will become a pleasure resort, as well as a great business centre. I see, by the latest news from Granite creek, that a company, called the California and Beaver Mining Company, have commenced operations on the Similkameen, only a little distance above this place. They are going to dam up the river, and change its course, and work out 4,000 feet of its bed. My opinion is, that above this place next summer there will be far more mining done than there will on Granite creek. It is positively certain that the Chinese have taken out more gold in this neighborhood last summer than has been taken out of Granite creek. If something could only be done with this curse of the Pacific coast—"this abomination of desolation"—this—whenever I think of the Asiatic plague with which this country is afflicted, I am completely at a loss for words to tell what I do think of it, or of any person who is so *miserably, damnably short-sighted and stupid* as to be unable to see that the country is going to ruin on account of them financially, morally, socially, and every other way that I can think of—but then I must keep to the subject. I was describing to a party visiting this country where to go—now you are within eight miles of Granite creek, so shift for yourselves—you will get there all right, and find plenty there to tell you what to do.

TO LUMBERMEN.

The lowest price ever paid for sawed lumber at Granite creek is \$100 per M. The timber, if you are a free miner, ought to cost nothing; but I dare not say that it will. Cut-

ting the logs is but little more than it is anywhere else. The timber is not quite as soft as the white pine of Eastern Canada, but much softer than the Norway. It is almost entirely free from punk, wind shakes, and heart cracks. The lumber, when sawed, can hardly be distinguished from good white pine, and I think can serve every purpose for which white pine is used. It grows in this country everywhere, and seems to be peculiar to a grassy country. Hills, mountains, and valleys are covered with it. Let us now consider the chances there are of making money in this country with a saw-mill. Lumber, at a hundred dollars per thousand, and logs costing nothing, and a mill that will cut ten thousand in a day, and the expenses, say wages of five men at three dollars per day, fifteen dollars; cost of cutting and delivering logs, say four dollars per thousand, and other expenses fifteen dollars; total, \$70. Value of lumber \$1,000. Profit for one day's work, \$930. This is, perhaps, the way that it might be looked at a long way off, but when here things take on a somewhat different aspect. A mill will, of course, saw just as much lumber here as it will anywhere else with the same amount of power. The logs are no harder to get out, and the cost of cutting them is not materially greater than in other places; and as for selling the lumber, I might say that there will be many hundreds of thousands of feet wanted next summer for sluice boxes and flumes. The town of Granite creek will be greatly enlarged, and lumber, instead of logs, would be used if it could be procured. Mr. Alliston told me he intended to build fifteen miles of fence next summer, and he would build it of boards if he could get them. Why then is there not money in a saw-mill? *There probably is.* But I would be doing an injustice were I to leave this subject without mentioning some of the drawbacks, of which the principal ones are the following:

1st. There is no way of getting a saw-mill in here except on the backs of mules or horses. This can be done, but it is costly.

2nd. As there are no roads in this country the lumber, like everything else, will have to be carried, after it is sawed, either on mules or horses, or on the shoulders of men. As lumber cannot be carried on mules or horses to any advantage at all, your business will therefore extend just as far from your mill as men will be willing to carry the lumber on their shoulders, and no further.

3rd. As the river is so rapid that it is useless for floating logs, there being no way of stopping them where you want them, your only chance for saw-logs are the trees growing in the immediate neighborhood of your mill, and as there is only two or three logs at most in a tree, and only a few of those on an acre, the supply is soon exhausted. As truck-wheels cannot be got in here you will have to move your mill to your new timber location.

4th. Wherever your saw-mill is the market is sure to be glutted, and you will be obliged to sell at a much less price than elsewhere.

Such are some of the difficulties in the way of a man making money out of a saw-mill. They are not imaginary, but real, although perhaps not noticed by a person unused to such a country as this. It is quite probable that a considerable part of Granite creek will be flumed next summer; but no person who ever saw the creek will think for a moment that a saw-mill will ever saw the lumber. A quarter of a mile above the town is the outside limit for lumber sawed in a saw-mill. It is not worth while giving any reasons why this must be so.

THE SIMILKAMEEN AS AN AGRICULTURAL AND GRAZING COUNTRY.

The aspect of the country during the months of August

and September is beautiful in the extreme. To look over some parts of the rolling prairie a person could hardly believe that he was not looking over an old cleared up farm, and that the hills were covered with golden grain ready for the reaper. This, of course, is not the case. The Similkameen, taken as a whole, is not a farming country. It is true there are some patches of excellent farming land, but as far as cereals are concerned, that is wheat, barley, rye, etc., the country is not well adapted for their growth. It is more than likely that in the near future the country will be divided up into ranches. That is, along the rivers farms of 160 and 320 acres will be taken up; these will grow all the cereals and roots that the farmer may need, but his great resource will be raising sheep, cattle and horses, for which the country is peculiarly adapted. I have been told by men who have several thousand head of cattle that the expense for each head for one year did not amount to more than seventy-five cents. The isothermal line that would pass through this country would also pass in the neighborhood of Philadelphia and Baltimore. There are occasional severe spells during the winter, during which cattle will need looking after, but they are not frequent. However, if hay is wanted it can be had for the trouble of cutting, raking it up and stacking, and the ground is so smooth that a mower, or a sulky rake, can be driven over the country for miles, and a good crop of hay can be gathered up.

For wool growing I cannot see how this country can be surpassed. There is not, in my mind, the slightest doubt but that this country will immediately be occupied by stockmen raising cattle, sheep, and horses. "Similkameen beef" is even now talked of much the same as Southdown mutton is by Englishmen, and in the future will always find a readier market than that from other parts.

A stock raiser's life seems to me a most enviable one. He is a gentleman—a lord, I might say—right from the time

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he commences, and all that it costs him to be that is to pre-empt 320 acres of land, and he can take his pick out of some thousands of square miles of beautiful country. It will cost him two dollars for recording, and then he has to pay for the land \$320, or one dollar per acre, in four equal annual installments; the first to be paid in one year from the date of recording. He can then, without any expense for clearing, fencing, or building more than a log habitation in which to live, commence to buy his stock. He will, of course, have to make improvements on his ranch sufficient to show that he means to live there. He can purchase a bull and as many cows as his means will permit. He will brand them and let them graze wherever they please. The calves will have to be branded before they are done sucking, and this is about all the attention the herd requires. As soon as the calves are grown to the adult size you can gather up the steers and drive them off to market. The cows you will keep until you may think it unprofitable, on account of their age; and thus, without any great amount of care or exertion, a man grows rich so certainly and gradually that he is rich before he is aware of it.

But this country has a far better destiny than being a place for raising stock. The hills and mountains, it is likely for all time to come, will be used for that purpose; but the valleys and the low lands are destined to blossom like the rose. I believe this is just the country for fruits—for orchards and vineyards. Peaches, grapes, almonds, peanuts, etc., flourish one hundred miles north of here; but this country is so new that nothing of the kind has been tried, and, of course, it is impossible to tell just what it will produce. The part of this country best adapted to cereals seems to be around and north of Lake Oakonagon. I regret much since I undertook to write about this country that I did not spend more time in looking at it—that is, that I did not see the country around Kittle River, Lake Osooyos, the Nahoi-a-pit-

ka, and the southern part of Lake Oakonagon. I have so far described and mentioned only what I have seen, and my great regret is that it has been so little. I came into this country to look for gold, and when a man is engaged in this kind of a search his attention is pretty well occupied; he is not likely to take much notice of anything else. But a man must be hopelessly stupid and short-sighted that could not see the immense advantages that this country possesses for others besides the gold-seekers. Perhaps what made a greater impression on me more than some others was that it was so different from what I expected to see. It never once occurred to me that a beautiful, grassy country like this could possibly be a gold country. It is quite probable that no such anomaly as this is to be seen in any other part of the world. I would, in conclusion, say to the people of Eastern Canada, who may have their attention directed to that great lone land, destined to be homes for the teeming millions of Europe: Let the teeming millions of Europe have it; but get you right straight through, and come to a land far better than that. We have something better than that right here; and we don't want such a beautiful country as this filled up with Poles, Hungarians, Jews and Russians. It is altogether too good for them, and *we* will have it for ourselves. Those that we want most to see are those grown-up boys and girls of Ontario who have had a taste of pioneer life. We want you here—*we want you bad*. We want you because you are like ourselves, and we feel interested in you, and we know that you will be better suited here than any other place in the whole British dominion. You deserve the choicest spot, and you shall have it. I believe this country was made for just such people as you, and you will only be claiming your rightful heritage. Here, then, is the place for you. You had better fetch money enough with you to start a ranch; but, if you come soon enough, you will run a good chance of getting it out of the bottom of some of our creeks. But, most of all, we want you

here because we know that you will give us a helping hand in ridding the country of this intolerable Asiatic pest that is now desolating it. I know that you look on the Chinese now as quite an interesting people; and so they are a very interesting people to one in no way interested in them, and who has nothing to do but look at them. The penitentiary is a very interesting place to a man who has nothing to do but look at it; but if he had to spend the whole of his lifetime there it would not look so interesting. The difference, however, would be no greater than it is between those who have to compete with the Chinese in the struggle for life and those who have not. If you do not regard them as a greater evil than the potato bugs, or the small-pox, or any other calamity, you are different from any man, woman, or child on this coast who has to work for a living.

I do not think I will be charged with plagiarism—that is copying from other reports on this country—for the simple reason that *there are no such reports*. I have hunted through every blue-book, and every other kind of book that said anything about British Columbia, but could not find a single sentence about this country. The fact is, until within the last six months, the country drained by the north fork of the Similkameen was to all the rest of the world a *terra incognita*, and the river itself was as little known as the Lualaba, or Niger, and Granite creek, as far as our knowledge of it was concerned, might as well have been in another planet, and other streams marked on the map had no existence except in the imagination.

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE SIMILKAMEEN COUNTRY—PROBABLE CAUSE OF THE GOLD DEPOSITS.

REVIEW OF SOME OF THE MORE POPULAR THEORIES.

As long as the world lasts the mountains of this province

will be its most distinguishing feature. It can hardly be believed to be possible that a country of its size should include nothing but mountains, and the valleys that cause them to be mountains; yet nevertheless such is the fact. The traveler in coming westward, after leaving Rat Portage, will have considerably over a thousand miles of almost level prairie to pass over that will seem to him almost as monotonous as a journey across the ocean, and if he has no idea of what is ahead of him he will wish and pray for a look at mountains again. This prayer he will get answered in a way that will make him think of the farmer in the Eastern fable who prayed for rain, and had the river Ganges turned into his land. It will be mountains succeeding mountains until his brain is dizzy, and the muscles of his neck stiff in his efforts to get a peep at the blue sky over their tops. Why British Columbia should be so abundantly blessed, or cursed, or why Nature should be so lavish in giving this province the lion's share of the mountains and valleys is a question for the learned geologist; but as he cannot be everywhere and see everything, the opinion of one who has at least been a close observer of them, and has had splendid opportunities of observing, might be read with interest and profit. According to Prof. Proctor, who is unquestionably the farthest advanced in astronomical science of any of his time, the earth was at one time in a gaseous condition, and at a later time in a fluid condition. To illustrate how this may be possible, it might be said that a piece of ice which is a solid may, on account of the presence of heat, assume first a liquid, and then a gaseous, condition, and by the presence of cold this gaseous condition may be changed back into a liquid, and then into a solid, the only difference between a piece of ice and a piece of rock in this respect being the amount of heat required to effect this change. The earth, then, if sufficiently hot, would be neither in a solid nor a liquid, but in a gaseous condition. According to Proctor not only has the earth been in this condition, but he undertakes to tell how

long since it was so; nor is this problem anything like so difficult as it at first appears. The earth, then, according to Prof. Proctor, about one thousand million years ago, was a glowing mass like the sun. The first indication of a cooling process having commenced would be spots appearing on its surface similar to those we now see on the sun's disc; still later those spots would grow so numerous that they would appear like belts. This is the appearance of Jupiter, which is a young planet. The cooling process continuing, those belts would widen, until a pellicle or crust would cover the entire surface. The cooling process still continuing, the conditions in which oxygen and hydrogen unite would be present, and then rains would come, oceans be formed, and the earth, by the action of tides, snows, rains, dews, glaciers, and constant upheavals and depressions, would be caused to assume the appearance that it now presents. It is natural, then, that the cooling process would greatly diminish its size, and as it diminished in size the pellicle or crust would become wrinkled. Those wrinkles on the face of old mother earth, as she may very properly be called, are what we know as mountain chains, or ranges, and are caused in just the same way that all other wrinkles are caused. The most important of all those wrinkles on the face of the earth is the great Rocky mountain chain—the backbone, as it is sometimes called, of the western hemisphere. The reason why this range is more important than any other is that it is younger, or came into existence later than many others, and also because the shrinkage of the earth when cooling was greater through the equator than through the poles. Judging from what we know of the much younger planet Jupiter, although over a thousand times larger than the earth, it revolves on its axis in less than half the time of the earth's revolution. The planet Mars, supposed to be older than the earth, takes a greater length of time; and the moon, which is only a withered corpse of what was once a planet, takes nearly a month to revolve on its

axis. Besides, it has not only been proved that the earth's motion is slowing up, but it has been demonstrated just how much that motion is being retarded, which slowing-up is said to be caused by the friction of the tides. From these and many other evidences, it is certain that the motion of the earth on its axis at one time was much faster than it is now. This being the case, its equatorial diameter was much greater than its polar diameter, and a natural result of the earth shrinking in size, and at the same time diminishing in speed on its axis, would be to cause it to assume a more globe-like form. This equatorial shrinkage would cause the wrinkles or mountain chains to run north and south. The polar shrinkage would cause them to run east and west. On this continent, as a rule, those east and west wrinkles seem to have been formed first, and the north and south wrinkles later. An example of the results of the polar shrinkage is seen in the country around Lake Superior, the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers, and I might also add the Similkameen country, as well as the country around Spence's Bridge and Savona Ferry, and, if I have been correctly informed, a large strip, extending as far north as the Peace river country. The northern part of Ontario, and the whole of the province of Quebec, was at one time a "sea of mountains," similar to British Columbia; but during the almost eternity of ages that have since elapsed, the erosive effect of glaciers, snow, rain, storms, accompanied with natural decay, have worn down their summits, and filled up the valleys between them, so that they are now called rocky ridges, except where the drift has been washed away from their bases, as on the north shore of Lake Superior and the Georgian Bay. There they are dignified with the name of mountains. As will be seen, by examining the rock-cuts on the C. P. Railway, the layers of rock stand almost perpendicular, and so uniform are they in their direction, nearly due east and west, that the lines of rock can serve to tell the direction as well as a compass. During the age of those up-

heavals British Columbia was then, as it is now, a mountainous country; but the general direction of the ranges was east and west. This condition of things prevailed for an immensely long period; but, in the course of time, the shrinkage of the earth, from east to west, being much greater than that through the poles, upheavals began to appear first along the Pacific coast, and gradually extend inland. The probable order in which those upheavals occurred were—first the coast mountains, second the Gold range, then the Cascades, after that the Selkirks, and last and youngest of all are the Rockies. As the equatorial diameter is still eight miles greater than the polar diameter, this upheaving process will still go on, and there can hardly be a reasonable doubt but that it is still going on, and the Rocky mountains are still encroaching on the prairie country to the east of them. This upheaving process along the coast of British Columbia has ceased ages ago, and there is now evidence that Vancouver island, and the whole coast is slowly but surely sinking beneath the waters of the ocean. That part of British Columbia known as the Similkameen country lies between the Gold range and the Cascades. The strata or ledges of the rock here lie in a direction almost due east and west, plainly indicating that the upheavals here were caused by the polar shrinkage to which I have already alluded. To tell how long it has been since those rocks were deposited and formed out of the primeval mud, and afterwards stood upon their edge, is a problem more difficult than to tell the age of the earth itself. All that we certainly know is that the rocks are the oldest-looking of any we ever saw. They are hoary-looking, and actually rotten, and falling to pieces with sheer age. The poet who said—

"THE DEEP DID ROT,"

would say, on seeing these rocks, that they died from old age, and kind nature covered them up with her mantle of green as with a pall, to hide them from sight. Those ledges of rock have thus far withstood the enormous pressure that resulted

from the equatorial shrinkage of the earth's surface—that caused the upheaval of the Cascades on the west side and the Gold range and the Selkirks on the east. This country has been saved from the wreck and ruin caused by upheavals in other parts of this province, and is now the same as it was “before the mountains were brought forth,” except that it has gone through nature's mill, (I mean the glacial epoch), and has had the tops of its mountains worn down, its valleys filled up, its lake beds scooped out, the course of its rivers changed, and its surface thoroughly scoured and polished.

This glacial period is said to have occurred about 300,000 years ago, and is thought to have lasted not less than 50,000 years. All theories so far advanced that pretend to explain the cause of this terrible phenomena are not well enough supported by known facts to deserve the name of anything better than mere speculations. Those who do not know enough about geology to know that there ever was a glacial period will not take the trouble to read this chapter, so it will be only a waste of time to attempt to prove that there ever was such a period. Previous to this period, or during the middle and latter parts of the tertiary epoch called the Miocene and Pliocene, British America possessed a tropical climate, which extended to the Arctic sea, and its mountains, valleys and plains were covered with a more picturesque flora, and inhabited by a more diversified fauna than they are now, here were the homes and feeding grounds of a variety of animals different to any that we have ever seen; and in all respects, except one (the absence of man), this continent was more interesting then than it is now. But when that awful change did come—more terrible than I have language to describe, this country was turned into one vast howling wilderness, and a deluge of snow covered mountains and valleys alike. This kept on increasing until the lakes and streams were all frozen up, and a mantle of ice, that in this latitude must have been several thousand feet in thickness, covered

the whole country, and extended as far south as the 36th parallel. This enormous mass is said to have moved south at the rate of about a foot in 24 hours. In its passage over the Similkameen country all those gorges that crossed its main course were filled up with glacial drift. The general course of the north fork of the Similkameen from Otter river down to the forks being in an easterly and south-easterly direction, would, during the time when the mass of ice was the thickest, be partially filled with drift; but when the period was passing away the general course of the glacier would be more in the general direction of the great valleys. The ice would then move directly down the valley of the north fork, which it evidently did, as is evidenced by the enormous banks of drift just below the forks in the neighborhood of Mr. Alliston's ranch. During this part of the glacial period the canyon of Granite creek, the canyon of the Tulameen, and every other paying creek and gulch that has so far been discovered, or I believe ever will be discovered, was crossed at nearly right angles by the glacier, and, of course, was filled up with glacial drift. As in Granite creek there is very little of the drift there at present, the natural supposition would be that it has been sluiced out. If this be the correct theory, and all the gold that ever was in this enormous amount of drift is just what has been and will be found in the bed of the creek, then the chances of the Similkameen ever being a rich gold-producing country are poor indeed, and hydraulic mining need never be attempted.

Although I do not favor the idea of the canyon of Granite creek ever being an immense sluice box, as this theory would imply, yet I know that there are others who will favor it; and as my business is to present facts just as I find them, regardless of what theory they favor, I will call attention to what seems to be confirmatory evidence of this theory—that is, the richness of the bench claims. The facts in regard to these are: There are claims on benches about one hundred and

fifty and two hundred feet above the bed of the creek that are said to have prospected fifty cents to the pan. If the whole of the claim was as rich as this it would mean about one hundred dollars a day to the man sluicing. If the theory that the whole of this canyon has been sluiced out is correct, then wherever the bed-rock in the creek is rich that also on the benches should also be rich in proportion to the height of the bench above the creek. There are, so far, but two bench claims on the creek that are worked. These are Suchel & Cockill's claim, which is about fifteen or twenty feet above the creek. The other claim is about two hundred feet farther up the creek on the opposite side, and about fifty feet above the creek level. The first mentioned claim I do not think ever paid wages. I am sure that the latter has. I saw one nugget, weighing over ten dollars, that came out of the latter claim. Those claims are near the forks, about three and a half miles from the mouth of the creek. Nothing is known of the claims towards the mouth of the creek more than what has been said about what they have prospected; and those reports I am inclined to take at a discount. I washed several pans on some of those claims that are said to be rich. I found gold, but not fifty cents to the pan. It seems to me more than likely that they are richest around the edge just where the prospecting has been done. It is much to be wished that those claims may prove rich, for in them lies the future of the town at the mouth of the creek. I make this statement, because I do not think that it would be proper for me to conceal or disguise the fact that the Chinese are fast becoming possessors of the creek claims. Full possession of all the claims would mean absolute ruin to every business carried on there. I shall now undertake to explain what seems to me to have actually occurred in connection with the deposition of the gold in Granite creek, and then leave the readers of this chapter to judge for themselves whether the conclusions arrived at are sufficiently well supported by what we know to be facts to

warrant them a fair and impartial consideration. That the canyon of Granite creek was once filled up with glacial drift is abundantly attested to by the immense banks that have accumulated at its mouth, and by the places in the creek where the present bed is considerably higher than its original bed, and also by the looks of the place where the canyon seems to end on the south fork, or rather the main stream? Although the canyon seems to end, yet it does not. It exists still further up quite as much as it does below, but has not yet had time to get washed out. The canyon of Granite creek, we have every reason to believe, was worn out by the action of ice and water during the tertiary period, and was an ancient creek, having much the same appearance that it has now at the beginning of the Quaternary. During the glacial epoch, when the valley of the Similkameen was filled with ice, Granite creek was filled up with drift; but, long after the valley of the Similkameen was clear, the canyon of Granite creek, on account of having its source up in the mountains, would for several hundred years remain a river of ice, constantly moving down to the valley of the main river. So enormous was the amount of drift forced out of the canyon by the ice that the valley of the Similkameen was completely dammed up, and all above the mouth of Granite creek for some miles was turned into a lake. This is witnessed to by the long row of benches extending for miles up the river, all exactly the same level on top, and very nearly corresponding in height with the high bank of drift on the left hand side of the mouth of the canyon, and just opposite the town. Of course, when this immense amount of drift was forced out of the canyon, all the gold in the drift went out with it. That the ice made a clean sweep down to the bottom of the creek is proved by the scratches and polishing that is to be seen on the rocks near the water level in the first canyon, and in many other places. The only patches of drift that would remain would be the banks of clay that would be left in the

sheltered places behind the points of rock jutting out into the stream. These banks, of course, have long since been sluiced away, and all the gold contained in them left in the bottom of the creek. The bed-rock, also, on account of being sheltered, and not being subjected to the grinding of the ice, was left in a better condition to act as riffles to keep the gold from washing down the creek. As soon as I became thoroughly convinced of the truth of this theory, I made an examination of the whole of the paying portion of the creek. I found just as I had expected—that in nine out of ten of the paying claims the gold was behind the sheltered points on the north-west side of the creek, and the richness of the claim depended much on the height of the rocky point that sheltered it; all the claims found paying on the south-east side had to be peculiarly well sheltered. If there was gold in any other places in the creek it was sheltered by some large boulder, or was situated in a way that would be additional confirmation of this theory. An illustration is afforded in the history of the captain's claim, which every person who has gone to Granite creek knows something about, as it is situated in the creek immediately in front of the town. When the creek was first discovered three hundred feet of this claim was taken up by Michael Saffron, and worked for several weeks in a good miner-like manner, and not being found to pay, was sold to the captain and his partner, Resdale, for considerable less money than had been expended on it. The captain then worked it for five or six weeks, as near as I can learn, without paying expenses. He then thought of changing his wing-dam and working the other side of the creek, and sunk a prospect shaft, to the depth of about twenty feet, without any promising result. He then let the upper half of his claim on that side of the creek to Chinamen to work on shares. This was much against his principles, but, as no white man seemed inclined to have anything to do with it,

of course there was no other way. However the Chinamen, who had been all summer camped on the bank, took hold of it and changed the dam, and set up sluice boxes, and washed out three hundred dollars the first day. This record was increased to four or five hundred. The captain then went vigorously to work on the lower end of his claim, and for over a month washed gold out at the rate of five, six, and even seven hundred dollars in twenty-four hours. All this good fortune was owing to a streak of clay that extended down stream through the whole length of his claim. This clayey streak evidently was the last remnant of a bank that had formed behind a point of rock at the up-stream end of his claim; and had not that rock been there no clayey streak ever would have been formed on the claim; or had the rock been in just the same position on the other side of the creek the chances of the claim being rich would not have been greater than one to twenty, as the ice-pressure was all on that side, and in the direction of the base of the high bench, just below the mouth of the canyon. The gold then, if this theory be correct, came from the north-west along with the glacial drift. There must, therefore, be somewhere in that direction quartz ledges of surpassing richness. Where those ledges are no one knows, and perhaps no one ever will know; but if ever found it is likely that they will make a millionaire of their discoverer. As the canyon of the Tulameen is in about the direction from which the glacial drift must have come, these ledges are to the north or north-west of this canyon, and somewhere between this canyon and Granite creek. Whatever there may be between this canyon and Granite creek it is certain that there is an immensely rich ledge between it and the Coquahola. Whether all the gold in the country came from there or not is uncertain, but at first sight looks to be quite possible. The gold in the canyon is coarser than that in Granite creek, and that in Granite creek is coarser than that in the south fork of the

Similkameen, and as those three gold-producing streams are just in the line of the glacial movement, it would be quite natural to suppose that it all came from there, because we know that the coarser gold is the sooner it will find its resting place, and the finer and more scaly it is the further it will travel. We can, therefore, by this rule tell when we are going in the right direction. The reasons for thinking that all the gold in Granite creek did not come from the north of this canyon are the appearance of many of the nuggets, which plainly indicate that they did not travel that far; besides there is a noticeable difference in the color of Granite creek gold, which would indicate at least three or four ledges. All the indications I have yet seen indicate that the gold came out of ledges of white quartz. This is proved by finding small pieces of this kind of quartz imbedded in the nuggets. It is, therefore, extremely probable that there is one or more ledges between this canyon and Granite creek. Those ledges, unless they have been interfered with by the Cascade upheaval, will run nearly due east and west, and will probably be so much decomposed that a pick can be used in taking out the rock. The theory that the gold came out of the rock that forms the walls or banks of Granite creek I do not hardly think worth a consideration, although it is generally believed among the miners there, some of whom I much respect, but can say nothing in favor of the theory, because I do not know of any actual facts that I could notice that would warrant such a conclusion. Another theory that receives considerable support is, that the gold has been washed down the creek from some quartz ledges that exist somewhere up the creek. This I think quite impossible, because it is well known that water will not carry coarse gold very far, and if it came down the creek, then the creek should grow richer as you neared the place where the gold came from. This everyone knows is not the case; besides up the creek is the place where every person has been looking that expected to find paying quartz ledges.

Yet, as far as I have been able to learn, I am not aware that even a color has yet been found in any quartz ledge yet discovered on Granite creek, or anywhere in the neighborhood of it.

About three-fourths of a mile above the town, there is an old bed of the north Similkameen river, which flowed there before Granite creek had worn down to its present level. This old bed is crossed by the new trail to Brumley's ranch, about four miles down the river. On the opposite side of the canyon of Granite Creek the old bed is filled up with banks of drift, which were crowded into it by the ice; persons going up Granite creek pass along the tops of those drift-heaps on the trail and can see the old bed on either side. There is another old river bed, similar to this, about a mile and a half further up, and three or four hundred feet higher. It is indeed remarkable that there should be a river bed at such a height, but what makes it peculiarly interesting is the fact that the waters that once filled this ancient channel flowed towards the west, or in a different direction to all the streams in the country.

I might mention that there is a depression across this country that pretty well corresponds in direction with that which caused the Fraser river to take its westward course from Hope to the Sound, and which may possibly, before the Cascade upheaval, have caused it to take a course similar, in general direction, to that of the Columbia. The best place to observe this depression is from the side of the mountain on the trail to Alliston's, about four and a half miles from the mouth of Granite creek.

I would also like to say, that I would strongly recommend that the name Tulameen, which is applied to the north fork of the Similkameen, be altogether abandoned, as it is misleading, and apt to cause a confusion of ideas, and is altogether unnecessary; also, if the

name Tulameen is to be retained, then where the gold is found is *not* in the Similkameen, *but* in the Tulameen country. Besides if it is proper to call the south fork of this river, the South Fork, then what is called the Tulameen is certainly the north fork, and when you speak of the Tulameen around Granite creek, no person seems to know what you are referring to. The creek on the map called the Whipoo, which flows from the summit down into the south fork of the Similkameen, along in the neighborhood of the Hope trail, is not the Whipoo, but the Whipsaw creek. I speak thus because I am sure that I am right. None of the old settlers ever knew it to be called anything else; and Mr. Jameson, who has lived near its mouth for over twenty years, says that it received its name from an old whipsaw found on its banks shortly after he came into the country.

EXTRACTS FROM THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE
DEPUTY PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

Nov. 23TH., 1885.

"From near the mouth of the creek to a point about four miles up no claim that has been tested on both sides has failed to yield good returns, and it may be safely said that the ground for that distance will average over an ounce a day to the hand. * * * I have not so far seen any reports in the newspapers that has gone beyond the truth. The statements made about Sherbourne & Rashdale's claim, and Brumley & Biggs, taking out \$400 in an afternoon with a rocker, are quite correct. Messrs Pierce & Harvey, on the 1st inst., washed out 45 ounces the work of eight men for thirty hours. * * * I believe that the discoveries on Granite creek will lead to the opening up of an extensive gold field—

FROM THE COLONIST JANUARY 10TH, 1886.

"The Stephenson lode, fifty miles from Hope, and twenty miles from Granite creek, is soon to be actively worked. The San Francisco assay test is \$4,676 and \$11,247."

THE LATEST NEWS.

YALE, Jan. 10.—The weather at the mines is mild with about six inches of snow. The prospect along the whole of the Tulameen is very encouraging. The latest discovery is on Slate creek, there are already 300 men located there.

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